

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 FEA-01

ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00

FPC-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01

PM-04 SAM-01 OES-03 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 /092 W

----- 020034

R 190702Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4745

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

USINT BAGHDAD

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 0849

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, KU, SA

SUBJ: KUWAIT-YENBO PIPELINE

1. DURING CONVERSATION WITH SENIOR BECHTEL REPS CURRENTLY VISITING KUWAIT WE LEARNED THAT APPARENTLY GOK AND SAG HAVE REACHED PRELIMINARY AGREEMENT REGARDING A CRUDE OIL PIPELINE THAT WOULD LINK KUWAIT WITH YENBO ON SAUDI RED SEA COAST. IT WAS NOT CLEAR WHETHER PIPELINE WOULD GO DIRECTLY FROM KUWAIT ACROSS ARABIAN PENINSULA TO RED SEA OR WHETHER IT WOULD GO SOUTH FROM KUWAIT TO POINT NEAR DHAHRAN WHERE IT WOULD CONNECT WITH OTHER (PLANNED) SAUDI PIPELINES. ACCORDING TO BECHTEL REPS, BASIC KUWAITI MOTIVATION IS STRATEGIC. IF KUWAIT HAD ACCESS TO PIPELINE ACROSS ARABIA, IT WOULD HAVE ALTERNATIVE MEANS TO TRANSPORT CRUDE OIL SHOULD STRAITS OF HORMUZ BE CLOSED FOR ANY REASON.

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2. COMMENT: THIS FIRST WE HAVE HEARD OF KUWAIT-SAUDI PIPELINE,

AND WE SHALL TRY TO OBTAIN MORE DETAILED INFORMATION. WE NOTE THAT KUWAIT-SAUDI ECONOMIC AND OIL DISCUSSIONS HAVE BECOME COMMON RECENTLY, AND THERE HAS BEEN COLLABORATION, COORDINATION AND CONSULTATION ON SEVERAL MATTERS. THEREFORE, WE WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED IF GOK AND SAG WERE ABOUT TO WORK TOGETHER ON PIPE-

LINE. MOREOVER, KUWAITI CONCERN OVER POSSIBLE CLOSURE OF STRAITS OF HORMIZ IS LEGITIMATE, AND IT WOULD MAKE SENSE FOR GOK TO DEVELOPE ALTERNATIVE MEANS OF TRANSPORTING ITS CRUDE OIL. WE UNDERSTAND THAT PROJECT OF THIS NATURE WOULD COST BILLION DOLLARS OR MORE, AND THEREFORE IT REPRESENTS THE LATEST MAJOR PETROLEUM RELATED PROJECT BEING CONSIDERED OR BEING UNDERTAKEN BY GOK. WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN ANY INFO ADDRESSES MAY HAVE ON PROPOSED KUWAIT-SAUDI PIPELINE.
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Message Attributes

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